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circumstances to make arbitrary and unjust demands. Both may be wrong, and both should be provided against by an arbitration law that can be enforced.

GOOD TIMES PREDICTED.

Few men are better judges of the business prospects of a town than the managers of hotels. They know that they travel, means good times. It is gratifying, therefore, to find that the Bonifaces of Washington predict that they will have their hands and houses full next winter, and business in the city will take an upward turn.

By the experience of the past the future may be well gauged. Good business at the hotels has almost invariably been followed by an increase of business in the different mercantile establishments. Considerable money is put in circulation by the strangers within the gates, and this flows into the different channels which nourish the business of the community.

If the hotel-keepers are true prophets, it may happen that next spring will see the revival in building which has so long been hoped for.

"CROOKS" IN TOWN.

An uncomfortable feeling in the community has undoubtedly been caused by the number of cases of housebreaking, larceny, arson, and other crimes that have filled the police calendar of late.

The cause is not far to seek. The wave of reform that is spreading over the big cities of the country has diminished the opportunities of the "crooks." They are everywhere birds of passage, and so they quickly seek fresh fields and pastures new. Chicago alone, it is understood, has got rid of about 40 percent of her lawless population.

The widely-advertised reign of the outlaw tracks, the prevalence of unbridled crime in Alexandria county, and the fact that the law officers there connive at all forms of wrong doing, have undoubtedly had much to do with attracting thugs, burglars, and sneak thieves to the neighborhood of the National Capital.

Alexandria city has been overrun with lawless tramps, who have openly threatened householders if their wants were not supplied. However, our ancient neighbor has brought this state of things on itself by its inaction in dealing with outlaw aggression.

If ever the police department of the District should be particularly active it is at the present time. Hundreds of Washington householders are journeying elsewhere and care should be taken that their premises are not permitted to be at the mercy of the city's disreputable floating population.

A few of our policemen "play the races" and some others need watching; but the force, as a whole, is sound to the core. The Times believes this, but it would ask the department to become aggressively active just now.

LIBRARY FOR WORKINGMEN.

Rev. Thomas Chalmers Easton, D. D., pastor of the Eastern Presbyterian Church, like many other Washington clergymen, is strongly in favor of the proposed free library and labor intelligence bureau, which The Times has so warmly advocated.

In a letter to The Times he says: "Among the many generous and noble acts of your philanthropy, I note the proposed agitation of 'free libraries for workingmen,' and related to them a 'free labor intelligence bureau.'"

"This certainly deserves the highest commendation of all who are seeking the elevation of those whose brains and brawn are the life of the Republic."

"The experiment of mechanics' institutes in England and Scotland has been crowned with brilliant success. Lectures upon subjects of sociology, inventions, mechanical genius, etc., during the winter evenings added many to a vast store of information that they otherwise would not have gained."

"The 'intelligence' department is an imperative need at the present time, and one which I believe can be operated successfully, not only to benefit the mechanics of our city, but the employers, who are seeking at times employees that have a record of ability and fidelity."

"The immediate institution of these two beneficial departments will add to the latter of your reputation as a true friend of the workmen of Washington."

CLEAN KITCHENS.

Cooks in New York city are aniling for an amendment to the factory laws providing for sanitary inspection of kitchens in hotels, restaurants and boarding-houses.

This is a most desirable and commendable movement, and it will doubtless receive the support of the general public of New York city and State.

But it should go further. It should be made a law of general application to the whole country, Washington included.

This is the age of the cheap boarding-house and of the little restaurant, where a full-course meal can be had for the amount that a cup of coffee and a roll would cost a few years ago. While meats are high cooked food is often so cheap as to arouse suspicion.

But the cleanliness of the kitchens in these places is the most important consideration, as the health of a large number of people depends on it. It should be guaranteed beyond doubt.

IT IS TIME TO STOP.

No one is disposed to unnecessarily criticize the unfortunate young lady who caused the death of Ernest Green, but the fatal shooting brings up the question of the right of any person to inflict punishment except through the machinery of a law. Then again, by what authority can a coroner's jury exonerate a person who admits having deliberately fired a shot that takes a human life?

Until society rejects all plans for mercy that involve homicide, either accidental or otherwise, except when made in established courts of justice, the offense of using deadly weapons will continue to convert happy homes into places of mourning. Life is too precious and has too many ties to be valued cheaply, and whoever whistles it is destroyed by a attempt to usurp the functions of the law, the acquittal for that branch of legal discipline should come alone from the authority that was outraged.

It is useless to make the death of Ernest Green point a moral to the theft of a little fruit. To mature minds the tragedy would have its effect, but to boys whose moral judgment under such circumstances often depends on the state of their appetites the lamentable affair will have but temporary mental resting place. It should, however, serve as a serious warning against the use of deadly weapons except in actual defense.

of life. They do not belong to household necessities, nor should they be included in the list of household ornaments, for there is no telling